

The specification has been amended to correct clerical errors therein.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bertsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,115,826) is respectfully traversed.

Bertsch et al. describe a dishwasher door (14) including a lower extension (34) extending into a tub (28) of a dishwasher (10). Door extension (34) extends below the level of spraying in tub (28) to prevent leakage caused by spraying of the cleaning fluid. A spatter shield (40) is attached to a projecting rib or flange (42) on a side of the door opposite a fluid receiving chamber (32). Shield (40) includes a slot (44) for receiving rib (42). Shield (40) tends to block a path of spatter over an edge (30) of tub (28) and is a tortuous path-type fluid seal. Shield (40) is behind an inner door (24) during spraying of cleaning fluid and outside of chamber (32) when door (14) is opened. The shield (40) includes a flange (46) and channel (48) that tend to deflect spatter from tub (28) to return the spatter to tub (28) through a space (36) between a wall of tub (28) and door lower extension (34). Bertsch et al. col. 3, line 63 to col. 4, line 50. As illustrated in the Figures, the door rib (42) extends inwardly from inner door in a substantially perpendicular fashion from the door inner wall and includes opposite flat sides. The rib (42) is fitted into a U-shaped slot (44) that includes inclined teeth (58) for retention of tab (52).

Claim 1 recites a door panel assembly for a dishwasher, said door assembly comprising “a panel comprising a formation depending therefrom, said formation comprising a curved arch portion,” and “a seal member comprising a head portion and an opening therein complementary in shape to said formation, said formation received in said opening.”

Bertsch et al. neither describe nor suggest a door panel assembly including a panel comprising a formation depending therefrom, the formation having a curved arch portion, and a seal member comprising a head portion and an opening therein complementary in shape to said formation, said formation received in said opening. Rather Bertsch et al. describe a spatter shield including a U-shaped slot with teeth therein for retaining a flat rib of a dishwasher door.

For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Bertsch et al.

Claims 2-7 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-7 likewise are patentable over Bertsch et al.

Claim 8 recites a door panel assembly for a dishwasher, said door panel assembly comprising “an inner door panel comprising a formation extending therefrom, said formation comprising at least one flat surface and a curved surface extending opposite said flat surface” and “a seal member comprising a head portion and an opening therethrough, said opening receiving said formation and attaching said seal member to said formation.”

Bertsch et al. neither describe nor suggest a door panel assembly including a panel comprising a formation depending therefrom, the formation including at least one flat surface and a curved surface extending opposite the flat surface, and a seal member including a head portion and an opening therethrough, said opening receiving said formation and attaching said seal member to said formation. Rather Bertsch et al. describe a spatter shield including a U-shaped slot with teeth therein for retaining a door rib having opposite flat and parallel sides..

For the reasons set forth above, Claim 8 is submitted to be patentable over Bertsch et al.

Claims 9-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 9-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 9-13 likewise are patentable over Bertsch et al.

Claim 14 recites a door panel assembly comprising “a panel comprising a bottom portion, a formation extending therefrom, and a barrier portion extending therefrom in a spaced apart relationship to said formation” and “a seal member comprising a head portion and a flap portion extending from said head portion and contacting a distal end of said barrier portion, said head portion comprising an opening therethrough for receiving said formation, said head portion engaged to said formation.”

Bertsch et al. neither describe nor suggest a door panel assembly comprising a panel comprising a bottom portion, a formation extending therefrom, and a barrier portion extending therefrom in a spaced apart relationship to said formation; and a seal member comprising a head portion and a flap portion extending from said head portion and contacting a distal end of said barrier portion, said head portion comprising an opening therethrough for receiving said formation, said head portion engaged to said formation. Rather Bertsch et al. describe a spatter shield that is separated from a distal end of the lower door extension. See Bertsch et al. Figures 3 and 4.

For the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Bertsch et al.

Claims 15-17 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claims 15-17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 15-17 likewise are patentable over Bertsch et al.

Claim 18 recites a door panel assembly comprising “a door panel comprising a boot-shaped formation depending therefrom” and “a seal member comprising a head portion comprising a boot-shaped opening therethrough, said boot-shaped opening fitted to said boot-shaped formation.”

Bertsch et al. neither describe nor suggest a door panel assembly comprising a door panel comprising a boot-shaped formation depending therefrom and a seal member comprising a head portion comprising a boot-shaped opening therethrough, said boot-shaped opening fitted to said boot-shaped formation. Neither the door rib (42) or the shield slot (44) as described by Bertsch et al. are boot-shaped (i.e., in the shape of a boot).

For the reasons set forth above, Claim 18 is submitted to be patentable over Bertsch et al.

Claims 19-20 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 18. When the recitations of Claims 19-20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 18, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 19-20 likewise are patentable over Bertsch et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kiesler et al. :
Serial No.: 09/682,423 : Art Unit: 3634
Filed: August 31, 2001 : Examiner: Redman, Jerry E.
For: DISHWASHER BOTTOM :
DOOR SEAL :

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SUBMISSION OF MARKED UP PARAGRAPHS AND CLAIMS

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

In furtherance of the response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2002 submitted herewith,
Applicants hereby submit marked up versions of the amendments made therein:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 12 with the following paragraph:

[0012] Figure 4 is a cross sectional view of a portion of the inner door shown in Figure 3 along line A-A[; Figure 5 is a cross sectional view of a portion of a seal member shown in Figure 3 along line A-A].

Please replace paragraph 30 with the following paragraph:

[0030] Figure 6 is a cross sectional view of door assembly 190 (shown in Figure 3) along line A-A and illustrating inner door panel boot portion 224 received in seal member head opening 250. As such, seal member 192 is securely fastened to inner door panel 162, and unintentional separation of seal member 192 from panel boot portion 224 is substantially eliminated by boot heel portion 230 and boot toe portion 234 that resist positive and negative

forces (i.e., forces to the right and to the left in Figure 6) generated in flap portion 198 as dishwasher door assembly 190 is opened and closed as dishwasher 100 (shown in Figure 1) is used.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (once amended) A door panel assembly for a dishwasher, said door assembly comprising:

a panel comprising a formation depending therefrom, said formation comprising a curved arch portion; and

a seal member comprising a head portion and an opening therein complementary in shape to said formation, said formation received in said opening.

2. (once amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said formation further comprises a [boot portion] heel portion and a toe portion, said arch portion extending between said heel portion and said toe portion.

6. (once amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim [1] 5 wherein said door panel comprises an inner door panel.

7. (once amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said formation depends from a bottom portion of said inner door panel, a portion of said formation extending substantially parallel to said barrier portion.

8. (once amended) A door panel assembly for a dishwasher, said door panel assembly comprising:

an inner door panel comprising a formation extending therefrom, said formation comprising at least one flat surface and a curved surface extending opposite said flat surface; and

a seal member comprising a head portion and an opening therethrough, said opening receiving said formation and attaching said seal member to said formation.

11. (once amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 10, said formation comprising a boot portion, said curved surface comprising a curved arch portion extending from said heel.

12. (once amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 8, said inner door panel further comprising a barrier portion extending therefrom in a spaced apart relationship to said formation, said flat surface of said formation extending substantially parallel to said barrier formation.

14. (once amended) A door panel assembly comprising:

a panel comprising a bottom portion, a formation extending therefrom, and a barrier portion extending therefrom in a spaced apart relationship to said formation; and

a seal member comprising a head portion and a flap portion extending from said head portion and contacting a distal end of said barrier portion, said head portion comprising an opening therethrough for receiving said formation, said head portion engaged to said formation.

16. (once amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said formation comprises a boot portion comprising at least a curved arch surface.

17. (once amended) A door panel assembly in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said boot portion further comprises a flat edge extending substantially parallel to said barrier portion.

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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce T. Atkins", written over a horizontal line.

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